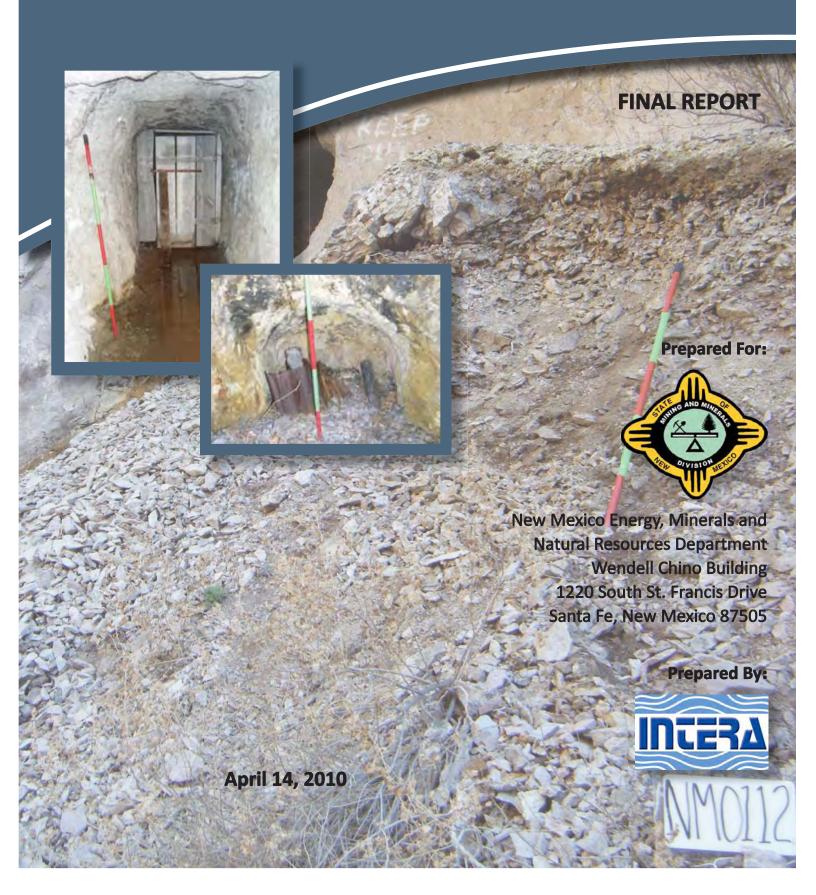
# Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Assessment for the Baby Site (NM0112)



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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

INTERA Incorporated (INTERA) has prepared this Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Site Assessment Report for the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) in compliance with the Professional Service Agreement dated November 2, 2009. INTERA visited the Baby Mine Site (AUM Site), MMD ID: NM0112, on March 5, 2010.

#### 1.1 Previously Known Information About the Site

The AUM Site was registered as the Baby claim in 1955 and is located in the Cooney area of the Mogollon Mining District. This AUM Site produced a total of 141 pounds of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> ore at an average production grade of 0.10 percent according to McLemore (1983). This AUM Site was included in the Anderson Report, which describes workings that may be up to 140 feet (ft) deep. These workings include an upper and lower adit. The Anderson Report reports scintillometer readings being reported by Virginia McLemore in the lower adit in the 250-300 cps range. The Anderson Report also notes that the adits were driven into a fracture zone located in the andesite and that euhedral pyrite is dispersed throughout the andesite (Anderson, 1980).

#### 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

According to the Catron County Tax Assessor Office (February 19, 2010), the AUM Site is located on Forest Service land. According to the 2006 and 2008 BLM GIS land ownership shapefile the AUM Site is located on Forest Service and private land in the S 1/2 Section 20, Township 10 South, Range 19 West, on the Mineral Creek Trail (Trail Head 201). This AUM Site is located in Catron County and is approximately 6.5 miles east of the town of Alma (Figure 1). Two areas were identified as part of this AUM Site, the Western Area and the Eastern Area (please see Figures 2 and 3).

To reach the AUM Site from Albuquerque, drive approximately 75 miles south on Interstate 25. Take Exit 150 to merge onto California Street/US-60 W towards Magdalena. After 2 miles, turn right to continue on US-60 W. Continue on US-60 W for approximately 62 miles. Turn left on to NM-12 for 67 miles after which you must turn right to remain in NM-12. Continue on NM-12 for another 12 miles. Turn left onto US-180 E and continue for approximately 25 miles to the town of Alma.

Once in the town of Alma, turn left onto Mineral Creek Road (Access-1 and Acccess-2). Follow Mineral Creek Road for approximately 6 miles until you reach the Mineral Creek trailhead parking lot (trailhead #201). Once you have reached the parking lot, set out on foot following the trail in Cooney Canyon along Mineral Creek for approximately 0.3 mile. The Western Area AUM Site is located on the rock face of the southern wall of the canyon. The Eastern Area AUM Site can be reached by hiking an additional 0.7 mile upstream. The Eastern Area AUM site is located on the southern side of the canyon across Mineral Creek.



#### 1.3 SITE GEOLOGY

The AUM Site is located in the Mollogon Mountains and on the northwestern edge of the Bursum caldera located in southwestern Catron County. The AUM Site is characterized as Tertiary Last Chance andesite intruding Whitewater Creek rhyolite. Uranium mineralization is associated with hydrothermal-vein deposits of purple fluorite in shear zones in the andesite (McLemore, 1983, Anderson, 1980). Additionally, it is reported that drusy quartz, calcite, and colorless to light green or dark purple fluorite appear in the hydrothermally altered portions of the andesite (Anderson, 1980).

#### 1.4 SITE HYDROGEOLOGY

The AUM Site is located within a narrow canyon (Cooney Canyon) with steep cliff walls. Mineral Creek flows through this canyon and out into the San Francisco River in the Town of Alma. Small tributaries flow into Mineral Creek upstream from the AUM Site.

The AUM Site is located in the San Francisco Basin, which is present in the southwestern portion of Catron County and extends up to a small portion of Grant County (DBSA, 2005). Groundwater in the basin occurs in the alluvial deposits along the San Francisco River (DBSA, 2005). The San Francisco River supplies water to the alluvial aquifer beneath it (DBSA, 2005). A large volume of groundwater exists in the San Francisco Basin, although it is widely distributed throughout the basin (DBSA, 2005).

#### 1.5 REGIONAL TOPOGRAPHY AND TERRAIN

The AUM Site can be found on the Mogollon Quadrangle 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey topographic map at an elevation of approximately 5600 feet above mean sea level (Figure 2). The AUM Site is located in Cooney Canyon in the Gila National Forest. The broader region around the AUM Site consists of mountain ranges separated by narrow canyons. An aerial photograph of the terrain surrounding the AUM Site is shown in Figure 3.

## 2.0 MINE FEATURES

The mine features described below are based on the features provided to INTERA by MMD in the GIS Data Dictionary (MMD, 2009). INTERA marked the locations of the AUM Site features using a Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) and entered details about the features into the GPS using the MMD data dictionary. The AUM shapefile provided to INTERA by MMD, referred to herein as the Eastern Area AUM Site, did not correlate with the AUM identified in the Anderson Report. INTERA identified an area upstream from the Eastern Area AUM Site that is identical to the AUM identified in the Anderson Report. This area upstream is referred to herein as the Western Area AUM Site. The Eastern Area AUM Site consists of one pile, one load out, one structure, one adit, and miscellaneous debris such as wooden beams, cables, eye bolts, and a 55-gallon drum. The Western Area AUM Site consists of two adits and one pile. A Photo Log is provided in Appendix A, Table 1 lists all of the AUM Site features, and Figures 4 and 5 show the locations of the AUM Site features (scales may differ, due to the resolution of the aerial photographs).



#### 2.1 MINE SHAFTS, ADITS, AND DECLINES

One adit (Adit-1) was found at the Eastern Area AUM Site. Adit-1 was located at the top of a scree slope and entered the rock face approximately 1 foot. Two adits (Adit-2 and Adit-3) were found at the Western Area AUM Site. Adit-2 had a wooden door approximately 15 ft into the rock face. It is unknown how deep Adit-2 extends although the Anderson Report reported that Adit-2 extends approximately 30 ft into the rock face at which point it turns left for approximately 75 ft (Anderson, 1980). Adit-3 extended approximately 4 ft in to the rock face wall and contained wooden timbers and scrap metal. Adit-2 appeared to be similar to the lower adit described in the Anderson Report based on the photograph and the estimated depth and trend. The upper adit described in the Anderson report was not located; this adit potentially could be located farther up the slope although INTERA could not access this area safely.

#### 2.2 MINING AND EXPLORATION PITS AND OPEN CUTS

No open cuts or mining pits were identified at the AUM Site.

#### 2.3 WASTE AND ORE PILES AND DISTURBANCES

One large waste rock pile was found at the Eastern Area AUM Site (PilePly-1). The entire slope of the Eastern Area AUM Site contained scree which could be a result of mining activities. One waste rock pile was found at the Western Area AUM Site (PilePt-1). Waste rock from PilePt-1 spills down the northern side of the pile down to the dirt trail.

#### 2.4 MINING RELATED BUILDINGS AND FOUNDATIONS

A stone wall (StrucLn-1) was found at the Eastern Area AUM Site, a collapsed opening was located in the eastern portion of StrucLn-1. A load out (LoadPly-1) was found at the Eastern Area AUM Site. LoadPly-1 consisted of a stone wall and multiple metal pipes sticking out from the ground.

#### 2.5 OTHER MINE FEATURES

An eyebolt (Equip-1) was found in the rock face at the top of the scree slope in the Eastern Area AUM Site. Wooden beams and cables (MiscPt-2) were found on the scree slope in the Eastern Area AUM Site. A fabricated 55-gallon metal drum (Equip-2) was found in the Eastern Area AUM Site. Additional miscellaneous debris items were found throughout the Eastern Area AUM Site.

#### 2.6 BOREHOLES

No boreholes were identified at the Eastern Area or Western Area AUM Site.

#### 2.7 RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES

No reclamation activities were identified at the Eastern Area or Western Area AUM Site.



#### 3.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

No apparent archeological sites were identified at or near the Eastern Area or Western Area AUM Site.

#### 4.0 SITE GAMMA RADIATION READINGS

The background gamma radiation reading at the AUM Site was measured approximately 0.3 miles from the Western Area and 1.0 mile for the Eastern Area of the AUM Site. The background gamma readings were measured at 15 microroentgens per hour ( $\mu$ R/hr) at the ground surface and 15  $\mu$ R/hr at 4 feet above the ground surface. The gamma radiation readings taken at the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site are provided in Table 2.

The gamma radiation readings at the Eastern Area AUM Site did not vary significantly above background levels (Table 2). The gamma radiation readings at the Western Area AUM Site were slightly greater than background. The maximum readings at the Western Area AUM Site were recorded at the entrance of Adit-2 and were measured at 45  $\mu$ R/hr at the ground surface and 38  $\mu$ R/hr at 4 feet above the ground surface.

#### 5.0 CURRENT LAND USES

#### 5.1 HUMAN ACTIVITY AND RECREATIONAL SITE USE

The Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site are located off of a well maintained and well traveled Forest Service trail. INTERA encountered one person who was panning for gold in Mineral Creek. Evidence of past and present ranching exists in the surrounding area. This evidence includes residential houses, barns, fences, and corrals.

## 5.2 NEARBY RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES

There are residential structures within a 1-mile radius of the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site. These structures are located on Access-1 which ends at the trailhead.

#### 5.3 NEARBY DOMESTIC WELLS

A domestic well designated GSF-02234 is located within a 1-mile radius of the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site.

#### 5.4 EVIDENCE OF GRAZING OR AGRICULTURE

Fences, corrals, and barns in the area attest to active and past ranching activity.

#### 5.5 EVIDENCE OF WILDLIFE

Butterflies, lizards, crows, and deer tracks were observed in the surrounding areas of the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site.



#### 6.0 VEGETATION

The AUM Site is located in the Coniferous and Mixed Woodland vegetation type and contains a mixture of arid and mesic vegetation (mesic vegetation needs a balanced supply of water). Woody species identified at the AUM site include Gambel Oak, Arizona Sycamore, Cottonwood, Smooth Sumac, and Pointleaf Manzanita. Threadleaf Snakeweed and cholla were also present at the AUM Site. Forbs collected at the AUM Site include Common Mullein, Horehound, and a Penstemon species. While there was no evidence of noxious weeds from collected samples or photographs of the AUM Site, the presence of both Common Mullein and Horehound suggest a disturbed site.

#### 7.0 POTENTIAL OFFSITE IMPACTS

#### 7.1 EROSION

Some gullying and downward movement of waste rock was observed at the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site.

#### 7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

There is no evidence of soil staining from chemicals potentially brought to the Eastern Area and Western Area AUM Site, or from constituents present in the ore or waste rock. Gamma radiation levels at the Eastern Area AUM Site are not significantly above background level. Gamma radiation levels at the Western Area AUM Site are slightly greater than background level.

### 8.0 REFERENCES

- Anderson, Orin J., 1980. Abandoned or Inactive Uranium Mines in New Mexico. New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources Open File Report 148.
- Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc (DBSA), 2005. Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan. Prepared for: Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan Steering Committee, City of Deming, New Mexico.
- McLemore, Virginia T., 1983. Uranium and Thorium Occurrences in New Mexico: Distribution, Geology, Production, and Resources with Selected Bibliography, New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, Open-file Report 183, pp. 1-21.

Mining and Minerals Division (MMD), 2009. Mine Feature Data Dictionary.

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE), 2008. Wells and Surface Diversions in New Mexico. WATERS\_PODS\_may08.shapfile. OSE Waters Database.



# **TABLES**



# Table 1 Site Features

# Baby-NM0112 Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessments

Feature Name	On Site?	Feature Type	Associated Feature	Material	Height or Depth (ft)	Width or Diameter (ft)	Length (ft)	Open	Collapsed	Closure Type	Associated Photo	Notes
Access-1	No	Dirt Maintained										Road from Alma to trailhead #201
Access-2	No	Dirt Maintained										Hand digitized, from trailhead to Access-1
Adit-1	Yes				4.00	5.00	1.00	No	No	Other	NM0112_001.jpg	Blast hole
											NM0112_023.jpg	
											NM0112_024.jpg	
Adit-2	Yes		pilept-1		6.00	5.00	0.00	Yes	No	None	NM0112_025.jpg	15 feet to the door
Adit-3	Yes				3.00	4.00	4.00	No	Unknown	Unknown	NM0112_027.jpg	Timber and scrap metal in adit
Equip-1	Yes					-					NM0112_004.jpg	Eyebolt attached to rock face
Equip-2	Yes					-					NM0112_011.jpg	Fabricated 55-gallon metal drum
											NM0112_007.jpg,	
LoadPly-1	Yes	stone structure		Stone	15.00	50.00	25.00				NM0112_008.jpg	base of scree slope
MiscPt-1	No					1						Trailhead #201, Mineral Creek Trail
											NM0112_002.jpg	
MiscPt-2	Yes					-					NM0112_003.jpg	wood beams and cables
PilePly-1	Yes	Waste		Rock	10.00	15.00	40.00				NM0112_006.jpg	•
											NM0112_024.jpg	
PilePt-1	Yes	Waste		Rock	1.00	7.00	20.00				NM0112_025.jpg	Point taken 200 ft west of actual location
											NM0112_009.jpg	
											NM0112_010.jpg	
StrucLn-1	Yes	Wall		Stone	10.00	35.00	2.00				NM0112_012.jpg	GPS did not collect, Digitized based on approximate location of feature

#### Notes:

-- designates no information

By convention, adits have height, width, and length but not depth.



Page 1 of 1 Table 1

# Table 2 Gamma Radiation Survey Results

# Baby-NM0112 Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessments

Reading ID	Contact (μR/hr)	4 ft (μR/hr)	Associated Photo	Asssociated Feature
Rad-1	34	28		Adit-1
Rad-2	28	28		MiscPt-2
Rad-3	26	25	NM0112_006	PilePly-1
Rad-4	22	24		PilePly-1
Rad-5	26	26		LoadPly-1
Rad-6	22	23		LoadPly-1
Rad-7	27	25		StrucLn-1
Rad-8	20	20	NM0112_011	Equip-2
Rad-9	22	21		
Rad-10	20	20		
Rad-11	45	38	NM0112_023	Adit-2
Rad-12	40	32		PilePt-1
Rad-13	37	34		Adit-3
Rad-14	42	35		PilePt-1
Rad-15	38	34		PilePt-1
Rad-16	40	33		PilePt-1
Rad-17	38	34		PilePt-1
Rad-18	24	20		
Rad-19	25	22		
Rad-20	30	26		Adit-3
RadBack-1	15	15		MiscPt-1

#### Notes:

All gamma readings at this site taken by Ludlum 192  $\mu R/R$ atemeter  $\mu R/hr$ =microroetgens per hour

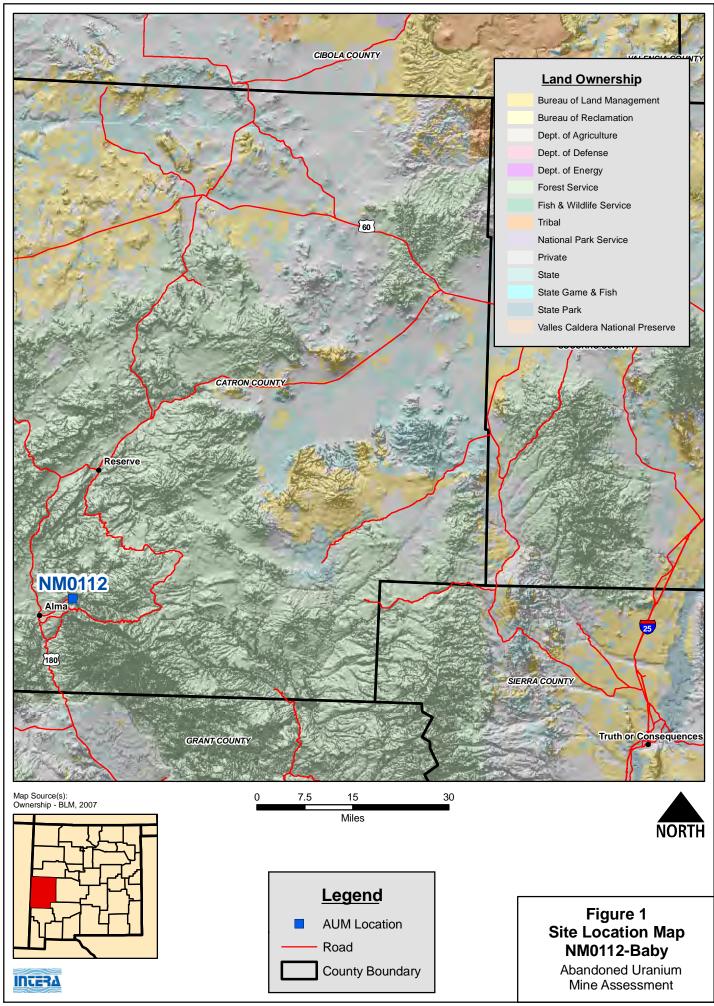
-- designates no information

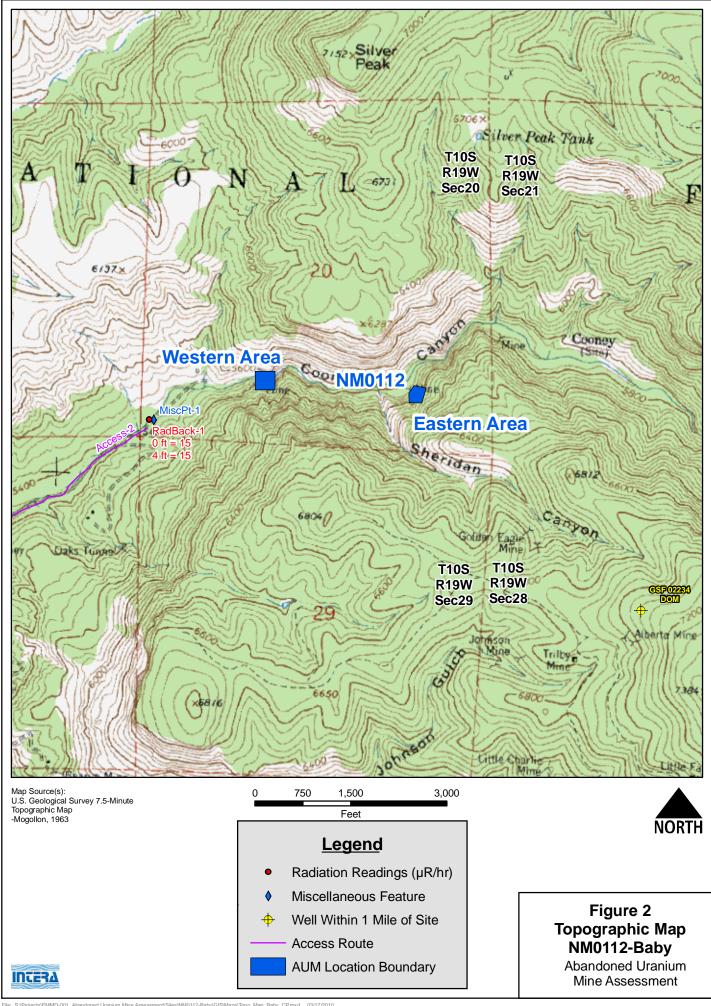


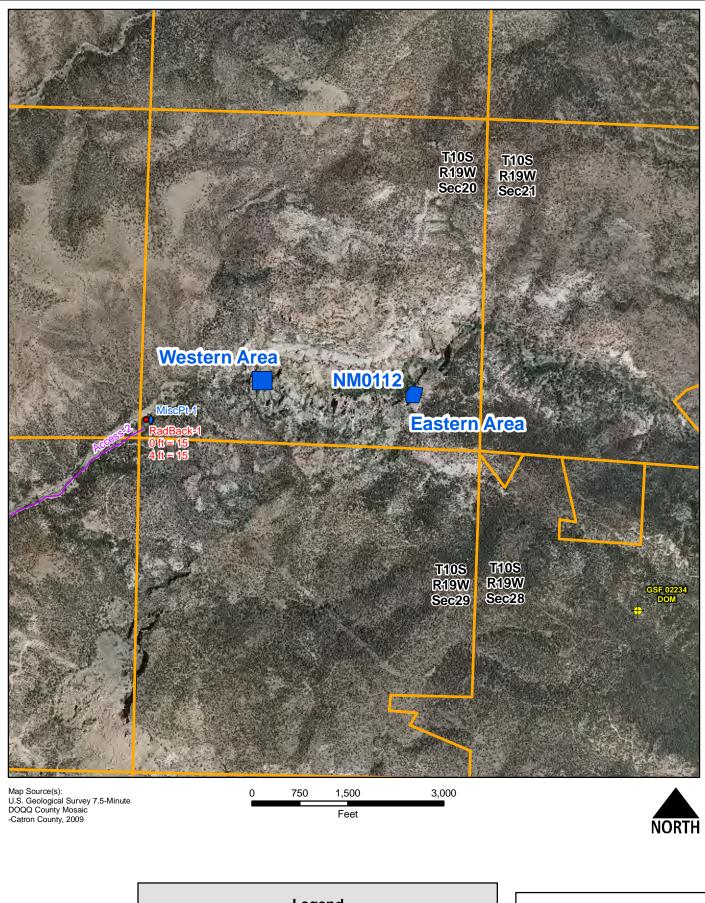
Page 1 of 1 Table 2

# **FIGURES**











- Radiation Readings (μR/hr)
- Access Route
- Miscellaneous Feature
- Section Boundary
- → Well Within 1 Mile of Site
- AUM Location Boundary



Figure 3 Aerial Photo NM0112-Baby

Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessment





# <u>Legend</u>

- Radiation Readings (μR/hr)
- Pile Location



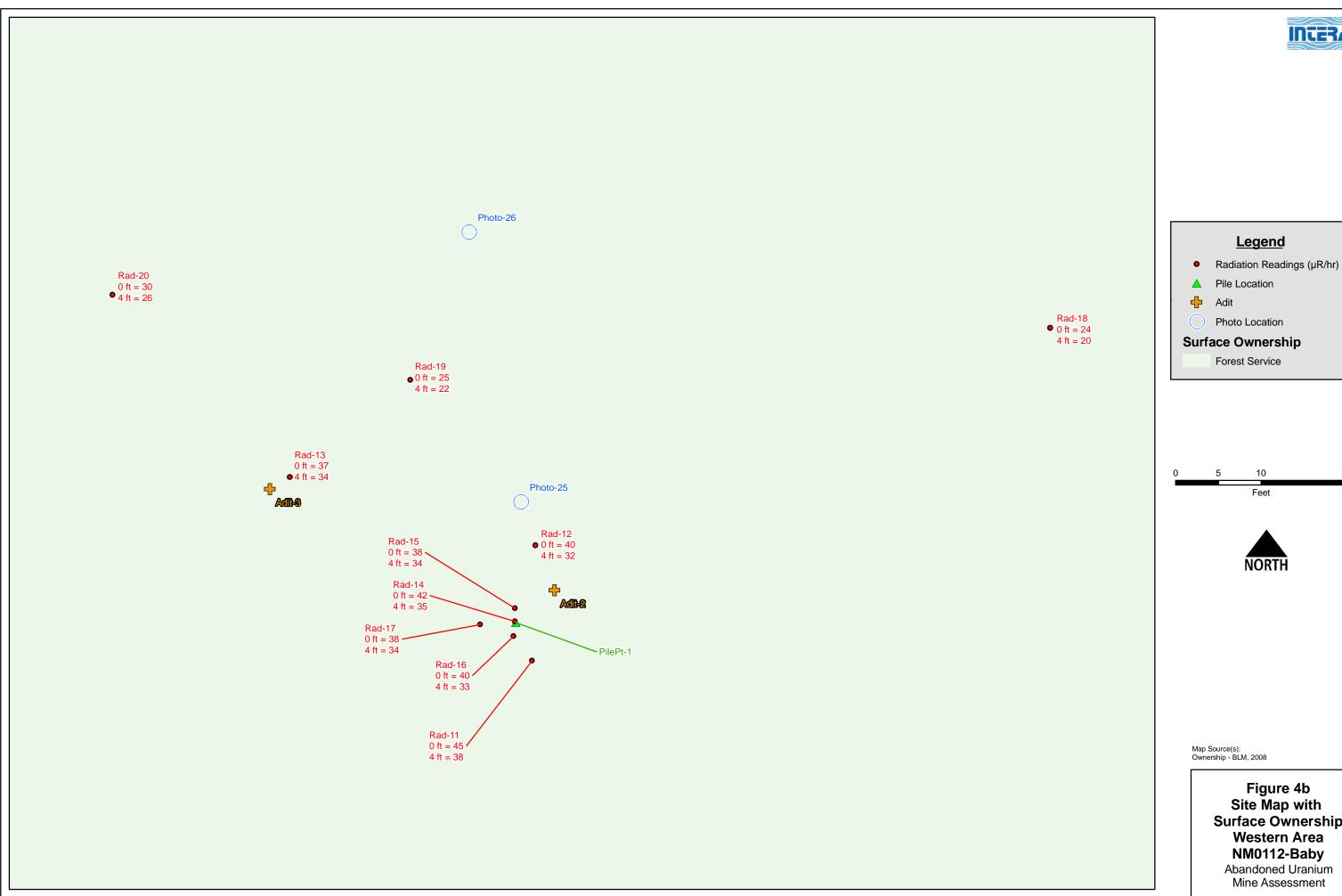
Photo Location



Map Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-Minute DOQQ County Mosaic -Catron County, 2009

Figure 4a Site Map on Aerial Photo Western Area

NM0112-Baby Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessment





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Figure 4b Site Map with Surface Ownership **Western Area** NM0112-Baby

Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessment





# <u>Legend</u>

- Radiation Readings (μR/hr)
- ▲ Equipment Location
- Adit
- ♦ Miscellaneous Feature
- Photo Location
- ---- Structure
- Load Out Boundary
- Pile Boundary

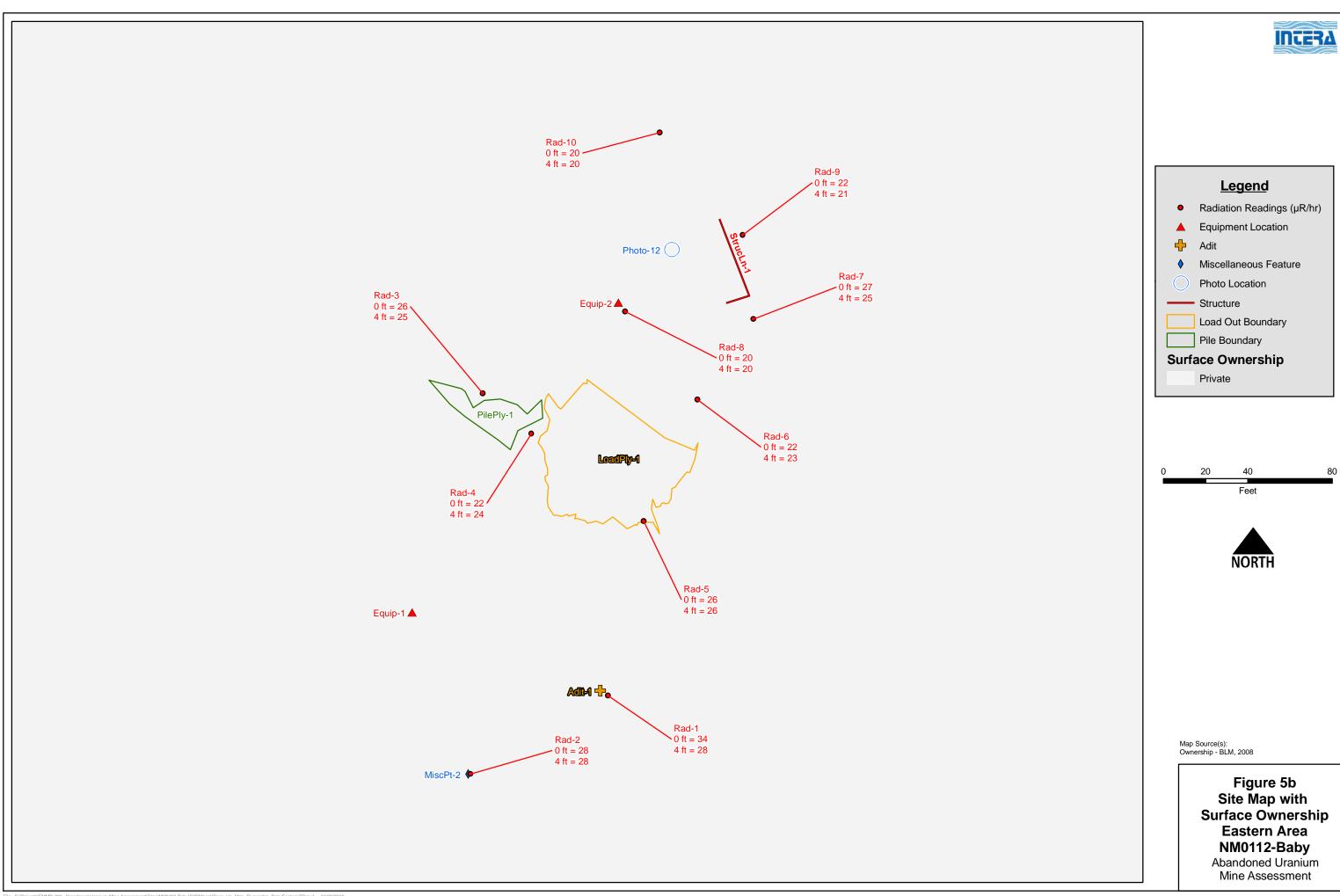
0 40 80 160 Feet



Map Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-Minute DOQQ County Mosaic -Catron County, 2009

> Figure 5a Site Map on Aerial Photo Eastern Area NM0112-Baby

NM0112-Baby Abandoned Uranium Mine Assessment



# APPENDIX A PHOTO LOG

Note: Gaps in the numbering sequence of the photos is the result of removing photos not suitable for the report. A full set of photos is provided in the electronic deliverable.





Photo 1-Looking south at Adit-1 located at the top of the scree slope in the Eastern Area.



Photo 2-Looking west at the rock face (MiscPt-2) at the top of the scree slope in the Eastern Area.





Photo 3-Looking north, down slope at wooden beams and cables in the Eastern Area.



Photo 4-Looking west at an eyebolt (Equip-1) attached to the rock face in the Eastern Area.



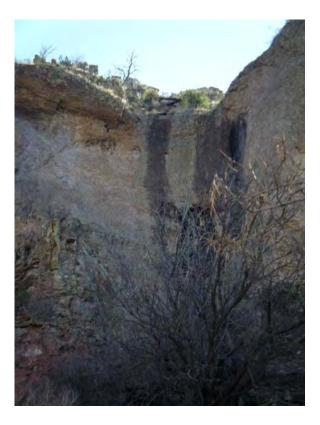


Photo 5-Looking north at wooden structure located at the top of the rock face above the Eastern Area.



Photo 6-Looking northeast at a waste pile (PilePly-1) located in the Eastern Area.





Photo 7-Looking south at LoadPly-1 located in the Eastern Area.



Photo 8-Looking west at LoadPly-1 located in the Eastern Area.





Photo 9-Looking east at StrucLn-1 located in the Eastern Area.



Photo 10-Looking at a collapsed hole in StrucLn-1 in the Eastern Area.





Photo 11-Looking at an altered 55-gallon metal drum (Equip-2) located in the Eastern Area.



Photo 12-Looking southeast at StrucLn-1 with the Site name in the Eastern Area.





Photo 15-Vegetation at the AUM Site.



Photo 18-Vegetation at the AUM Site.





Photo 19-Vegetation at the AUM Site.



Photo 20-Vegetation at the AUM Site.





Photo 21-Vegetation at the AUM Site.



Photo 23-Looking south at Adit-2 in the Western Area. Photo is similar to photo in Anderson Report.





Photo 24-Looking southeast at the waste pile (PilePt-1) adjacent to the entrance of Adit-2 in the Western Area.



Photo 25-Looking southeast at PilePt-1 and Adit-2 with the Site name in the Western Area.





Photo 26-Looking southeast, up towards the potential adit referenced in the Anderson Report in the Western Area.



Photo 27-Looking south at Adit-3 in the Western Area.



# APPENDIX B FIELD NOTES



